



U.S. Department of Justice

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Press Release

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ATTORNEY GENERAL MUKASEY RECOGNIZES DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES AND OTHERS FOR THEIR SERVICE AT ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey recognized 250 Department employees for their distinguished public service today at the 56th Annual Attorney General Awards Ceremony. Twenty-two other individuals outside of the Department also were honored for their work. Held at Constitution Hall, this annual ceremony recognizes both Department employees and others for their dedication to carrying out the Justice Department’s mission.

“The achievements of the people we honor today span the globe, and are as broad as the mission of the Department: To enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law,” said Attorney General Mukasey. “We all serve that mission in different ways, but what all of these award recipients have in common is that they have reached the highest level of accomplishment in the work that they do.”

The **Attorney General’s Award for Distinguished Service** is the Department’s second highest award for employee performance. The recipients of this award exemplify the highest commitment to the Department’s mission. Seventeen Distinguished Service Awards were presented this year to individuals or teams of people.

The group responsible for the prosecution of *United States v. Bartlett, et al.* was awarded the **Attorney General’s Award for Distinguished Service** for their work on this high-profile criminal civil rights prosecution in which seven Milwaukee police officers were convicted of brutally assaulting two young black men whom they had falsely accused of a crime. Recipients were, from the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, Deputy Chief **Stephen J. Curran** and Trial Attorney **Edward G. Caspar**; from the FBI Milwaukee Division, Special Agents **Mark A. Robel**, **George R. Strong** and **Wayne E. Jackowski**; from the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, Assistant U.S. Attorneys **Mel S. Johnson** and **Carol L. Kraft**; and Paralegal Specialist **Theresa L. Kneser**.

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic congratulated the Milwaukee recipients. “The *Bartlett, et al.* case was one of the most significant prosecutions of recent years. The message sent to the community, including the police, that brutality will not be tolerated and that justice will prevail, [reflects](#) the fundamental work of the United States Department of Justice. I am proud of the work of the United States Attorney’s Office, and I join Attorney General Mukasey in commending the service of the award recipients. They represent all their colleagues who strive daily to bring justice to our community.”